

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 04333 061110Z

21

ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 INSE-00 CU-04 L-03 /022 W

----- 068079

R 060900Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3241

UNCLAS KABUL 4333

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN VISA RECIPROCITY

REF: (A) KABUL 4269 (B) STATE 158318

1. CONSUL RAISED SUBJECT OF STUDENT VISA FEE DURING CALL ON MFA PASSPORT AND VISA OFFICE DIRECTOR OSMAN JUNE 30. OSMAN NOTED MOST STUDENTS TRAVEL ABROAD UNDER GOVERNMENTAL OR FOREIGN AID AUSPICES, ARE CONSEQUENTLY CONSIDERED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, GRANTED OFFICIAL PASSPORTS (LABELED "PASSPORT DE SERVICE"), AND SHOULD BE EXEMPT FROM VISA FEES ON BASIS OF RECIPROCITY. PRIVATELY SPONSORED STUDY ABROAD THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE, ALTHOUGH GOA RARELY DISPOSED TO ISSUE REGULAR (POLICE) PASSPORTS FOR THAT PURPOSE. OSMAN STATED STUDENT BEARERS OF REGULAR PASSPORTS SHOULD BE CHARGED SEVEN DOLLAR VISA FEE.

2. OSMAN OBSERVED POTENTIAL PRIVATELY SPONSORED STUDENTS MAY ATTEMPT CIRCUMVENT STRINGENT AFGHAN PASSPORT ISSUANCE REGULATIONS BY OBTAINING REGULAR PASSPORTS POSING AS TOURISTS OR BUSINESSMEN EN ROUTE TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. VALIDITY OF SUCH PASSPORTS USUALLY LIMITED GEOGRAPHICALLY, AND OSMAN STRESSED THEY SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED VALID FOR TRAVEL TO US. SHILE CONSEC MAKES OWN DETERMINATION OF STUDENT BONA FIDES, THOSE WHO IN EFFECT FRAUDULENTLY OBTAIN AFGHAN PASSPORTS, ESPECIALLY WITHOUT HAVING PERFORMED MANDATORY MILITARY SERVICE, HAVE MINIMAL LIKLIHOOD OF VOLUNTARILY RETURNING TO AFGHANISTAN.

3. IN ADDITION TO CATEGORIES LISTED IN FINAL PARAGRAPH OF REFTEL B, C-I NIVS SHOULD ALSO REQUIRE THE INCREASED FEE.

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ELIOT

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